

SCHOOL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF ACTION
May 12, 2008

The School Budget Review Committee met in regular session on Monday, May 12, 2008, with the following members present: Director Judy A. Jeffrey, Department of Education, Chair; and committee members Jane Babcock, Don Hansen, and Lee Tack.

- 1. Review of Previous Decisions.** Reviewed the decisions of the March 10, 2008, meeting of the School Budget Review Committee.
- 2. Iowa City Community School District.** Denied modified allowable growth but approved use of the unexpended General Fund balance (secretary's balance), for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$4,987,646 for costs associated with completing, furnishing, and equipping a building project approved by the voters.
- 3. Dubuque Community School District.** Denied modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$277, 596 for costs associated with inclement weather.
- 4. Linn-Mar Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$1,914,093 for costs associated with initial staffing of a new building approved by the voters; denied \$250,000 for costs associated with media and classroom materials, and \$200,000 for costs associated with subsidizing the school nutrition fund.
- 5. South Clay Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$106,921; received and accepted the corrective action plan, with the requirement that the district ensure that no categorical funding will be used to supplant General Fund expenditures; directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board and to the Department of Education, demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority.
- 6. St. Ansgar Community School District.** Denied the request for modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$814,986. Directed the district to request more intensive assistance from its AEA, IASB, or the Department of Education School Finance Team to examine more closely the actions available to a school district to eliminate the negative unspent balance within a reasonable timeframe. Directed the district to report to the SBRC at its December 2008 meeting the actions taken by the school district showing, at a minimum, \$529,000 in budget cuts and a positive unspent balance projected for FY09; directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board and to the Department of Education demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority.

- 7. Midland Community School District.** Received and accepted the district's corrective action plan and approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$640,183, because the district has made significant budget cuts and showed that with these budget cuts, it will have a positive unspent balance for FY09. Directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board and to the Department of Education demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority.
- 8. Pekin Community School District.** Denied modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$141,093 for half of its transportation costs in excess of the state average; approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$219,903, received and accepted the district's corrective action plan; directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board and to the Department of Education demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority.
- 9. West Bend-Mallard Community School District.** Denied modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$326,552. Made a recommendation to the State Board of Education that the Department of Education send an accreditation team to the district for an on-site fiscal review in conjunction with a Phase II accreditation visit; directed the district to submit monthly reports to its board and to the Department of Education demonstrating the financial position of the district in relationship to its certified budget control lines and to maximum spending authority.
- 10. West Des Moines Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$118,538 for costs associated with asbestos removal, management, and abatement.
- 11. Fort Dodge Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$84,291 for costs associated with asbestos abatement.
- 12. Waterloo Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$528,198 for costs associated with asbestos abatement and in the amount of \$1,168,650 for initial staffing of a new school; denied modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$474,511 for operation costs for a new building and in the amount of \$704,110 for staff costs for moving into new facilities.
- 13. Colfax-Mingo Community School District.** Approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$28,193 for the cost of a nurse and counselor under SF277; denied modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$98,519 for other costs related to the new staff members, for transportation, for frozen pipes, and for special education expenditures.

14. Prairie Valley Community School District. Denied modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$200,000 for costs associated with financial management; advised the district that when it removes the leaking underground storage tank, and if it needs to use General Fund for that purpose, it may request modified allowable growth for consideration by the SBRC at that time.

15. Application for Open Enrollment Out Not on Previous Headcount. Approved modified allowable growth for Hudson Community School District for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$69,034 for tuition costs incurred for open enrollment students not included on the previous year's certified enrollment report.

16. Returning Dropout/Dropout Prevention Program Amendments. Approved the amended requests for modified allowable growth for the 2008-2009 school year in the total amount of \$101,821,339 for the districts that have approved applications for Returning Dropout and Dropout Prevention programs.

17. College Community School District. Approved modified allowable growth for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$373,741 for costs associated with a refund of property tax that reduced the district's unspent balance and is not otherwise self-correcting.

18. Cash Reserve Levy Limit List. Reviewed the list of cash reserve levies from the 2008-2009 certified budgets.

19. Future Meeting Dates. Reviewed the list of future meeting dates.